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LB 305

percent instead of the original, which is 3 percent, and allows for growth in the cash reserve. So anything else that's in the bill in its present status as it went through General File is, in my amendment, is struck and it simply allows for local school boards to do a 1.5 percent growth. And I have a...and those of you that understand the technicalities of this, it makes a difference in different schools. So whatever they've got now, it allows them another 1.5 percent, and it would allow their cash...their reserve in school districts only to grow accordingly so that they can...I understand that was an amendment in another Education bill. But this is the thrust of the amendment or the bill as I would intend it. It allows local control, local market conditions to rule as per school board's intent and their discussions, and it does nothing else. I want to make that very clear. The way I had it drafted before lunch was not quite correct because when I had intended to draft it last week I had assumed...made some some assumptions that I should not have done. I had assumed that the sales tax would go away. As of twelve o'clock this morning, the sales tax had not gone away. So this takes out the sales tax, takes out the master teacher program, takes out utility allowances, all of this, and allows simply for a straight out increase in allowable growth of 1.5 percent. I debated about putting this in only for teachers. It's not in there. This allows school boards to grow simply the 1.5 percent on the lid. This would then give them some leeway or flexibility to face utility costs and growth, those kinds of expenditures. So I want you to be perfectly clear, your understanding of what I intend to do. It's very simple and I offer that as a possible compromise if you want to do something for teachers this session. I think we're headed right now in a collision on LB 305; that we're going to do nothing. I know many of you agree with that. Others don't want to raise a quarter cent sales tax. I don't think that has a good chance. I think this might have some...some attractiveness to many in here that feel that we ought to allow school boards who have the ability to raise that money to be able to spend that under the budget lid. That's all it does--raises the budget lid. So, with that, I'll offer it to you for discussion and for your consideration. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. You've heard